

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 18-20 and amend claims 1-2, 4-9 and 12-13 as set forth below.

Sub 1. (Currently Amended) A method for renting and charging a storage system in which an owner of the storage system rents and charges a rental charge to a user of the storage system,
wherein said storage device has a channel control unit which is connected to a host computer and responds requests from the host computer;

CI a cache memory which stores data sent by the host computer under control of said channel control unit;

a disk control unit which controls a plurality of storage devices so as to store said data stored in said cash memory into said storage devices and

a shared memory which stores control information according to said channel control unit and said disk control unit,

comprising the steps of:

holding requests of using said disk devices in said shared memory, which set by an operating unit connected to said channel control unit or disk control unit;

recording information of use state according to said disk devices into a use management table in accordance with said requests of using said disk devices;

reading said information of use state according to said disk devices ~~an used volume~~ by referring a said use management table held in a storage system under control of said channel control unit or said disk control unit; and

sending said the read information of use state used volume under control of said channel control unit or said disk control from the storage system to a charging system of said user .

2. (Currently Amended) The method for renting and charging a storage system according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

inputting said information of use state according to said disk devices ~~a used volume~~; and

updating said inputted information of use state according to said disk devices ~~a used volume~~ to said use management table by said user users.

3. (Original) The method for renting and charging a storage system according to claim 2, further comprising the step of:

transferring starting information for indicating that said user starts using said storage system from said storage system to said charging system,

wherein in response to said starting information, said charging system starts charging to said user.

4. (Currently Amended) A method for renting and charging a storage system, in which an owner of a storage system rents and charges the storage system to a user of the storage system, comprising the steps of:

sending a user identification ID, a usable volume for said user at an initial setting stage ~~an initial introduction volume introduced by the user~~, and an unusable volume unless said user operates a new operation for adding a volume with an operating unit ~~an added volume used by the user in excess of said initial introduction volume~~ from said storage system to a charging system; and

charging said user of said user identification ID by adding a usable volume for said user at an initial setting stage and an added volume with said new operation for adding a volume

~~adding by said charging system a charged fee of said user from said initial introduction volume and said added volume based on said user identification ID.~~

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5. (Currently Amended) The method for renting and charging a storage system according to claim 4, wherein a usable volume for said user at an initial setting stage ~~said initial introduction volume~~ and said added volume include at least one of a disk volume and a cache volume provided in said storage system.

6. (Currently Amended) The method for renting and charging a storage system according to claim 4, wherein charging for a usable volume for said user at an initial setting stage ~~said initial introduction volume~~ is calculated by compensation for a volume, and charging for said added volume is calculated by compensation for a used volume ~~used within the added volume range~~.

7. (Currently Amended) The method for renting and charging a storage system according to claim 5, wherein charging for a usable volume for said user at an initial setting stage ~~said initial introduction volume~~ is calculated by compensation for a volume, and charging for said added volume is calculated by compensation for a used volume ~~used within the added volume range~~.

8. (Currently Amended) The method for renting and charging a storage system according to claim 6, wherein charging for said added volume is further calculated by compensation for an unused volume ~~used within the added volume range.~~

9. (Currently Amended) The method for renting and charging a storage system according to claim 7, wherein charging for said added volume is further calculated by compensation for an unused volume ~~used within the added volume range.~~

10. (Original) The method for renting and charging a storage system according to claim 7, further comprising the step of:

transferring starting information for indicating that said user starts using said storage system from said storage system to said charging system, wherein the charging system starts charging to the user.

11. (Original) The method for renting and charging a storage system according to claim 8, further comprising the step of:

transferring starting information for indicating that said user starts using said storage system from said storage system to said charging system, wherein the charging system starts charging to the user.

12. (Currently Amended) The method for renting and charging a storage system according to claim 11 9, wherein charging is started after a predetermined period elapses from the point of reception of said starting information.

13. (Currently Amended) The method for renting and charging a storage system according to claim 11 9, further comprising the step of: starting charging after a predetermined period elapses from the point of reception of said starting information by said charging system.

14. (Original) The method for renting and charging a storage system according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

reading an unused volume from said use management table held in said storage system; and

sending said read unused volume from the storage system to the charging system.

15. (Original) The method for renting and charging a storage system according to claim 1, further comprising the step of: doubling data stored into said storage system (called a first storage system) to a second storage system, wherein charging of said second storage system is set to lower than that of said first storage system.

{16. - 20. Canceled.}
